

Transition to High School

March 6, 2024

Presented by PUSD Family & Community Engagement Office & Pasadena Education Network

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS from the March 6th presentation. (See end of document for additional resource links!)

Questions about the HS Schedule & Graduation Requirements

Q: What is an advisory period?

A: Advisory is like a homeroom period; it may be used a little differently on different campuses.

Q: How are academy classes integrated into the schedule?

A: Academy courses typically count as the student's elective course, and are part of their regular school-day class schedule. If a student is in one of the Academies, that will determine most (but not all!) of their classes.

Q: What is world language?

A: Spanish, French, Mandarin, Armenian. For the A-G World Language requirement, the student must complete two years minimum (3 recommended) in the same language.

Q: Does a sport team count toward the PE credit? What about cheerleading or marching band? What about a club sport or other off-campus athletic activity?

A: Playing on one of your high school's sports teams does count toward the PE credit – however, 9th grade students are required to take a PE class.

Cheerleading, dance or marching band can also count towards PE credit. Team or athletic activities outside of school do not count towards the required PE credits.

Q: How many years of PE are required for graduation from high school? And how many for college?

A: Students must pass 20 credits of PE to graduate (=4 semesters or two full years). Be sure your student dresses for PE and participates, otherwise they will not receive the credit and have to make up the class in order to graduate! PE is not one of the A-G college admissions requirements.

Q: Would you say the academies are more rigorous or intensive as compared to a standard class schedule or about the same? Are kids enrolled in the academies taking more courses?

A: Students in academies have the same number of courses as those who are not. In terms of rigor, being in an academy is not more or less rigorous.

Q: Can students graduate early if they meet all of their graduation requirements by junior year?

A: In theory, yes, but as a practical matter it would be difficult.



Q: How does the district balance A-G, The Academies, and other extra-curricular interests (e.g. Music programs) to ensure all goals are met? Can students leverage the summer programs to achieve all these goals?

A: Great question! It can be tricky to manage it all. I just sat down with my daughter (8th grader at Marshall) and started to map out a four year plan because it is a lot to fit in.

4-year plans are conducted every year to ensure the student is meeting grad requirements Counselors work with students based on their plans for after high school. Their schedules will consist of courses that meet A-G eligibility and courses that pertain to their academies.

Q: Can the student start earning community service hours this summer before 9th grade? IF I have my 8th grader signed up for volunteer at PEF this summer; can he use these hours towards HS service requirements?

A: Students can begin earning community service hours the summer before 9th grade, but they cannot apply more than 10 hours of service from this summer towards the 40-hour graduation requirement.

Q: Can students do both AP classes and dual enrollment?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there any after school programs where students can stay on campus if they are not doing a sport?

A: Yes. Some examples... <https://www.flintridge.org/our-programs/youth-of-promise/> Upward Bound, Outward Bound, and the Boys and Girls Club are also good programs.

Questions about the Scheduling Process

Q: How do 8th grade students not currently in the district schedule their classes? Can they contact a counselor?

A: If your student is not currently in a PUSD middle school, or will be attending Blair or Marshall starting with 9th grade, you should reach out to the high school counseling office to get a packet and schedule a time for your student to meet with their counselor.

Q: Who do I contact about the classes they are choosing for 9th grade? My daughter may have already been asked to fill that out without anything coming home for our review.

A: Your daughter's counselor. You could ask the middle school counselor whether that meeting with the HS counselor already took place, or you could contact the high school and find out which counselor your daughter is assigned and then email them.

Q: Can parents and the student meet with the counselor together to create the four year plan, if requested?

A: Yes. You can let the counselor know and they can send a virtual invite. Because counselors have to schedule these 1:1 meetings with their entire caseload of students, parents would be receiving an invitation to a meeting that has been scheduled by the counselor – they cannot necessarily accommodate your schedule.

The 4-Year Plan is established at a 1:1 meeting in the fall of the student's 9th grade year, and that plan is revisited at 1:1 student-counselor meetings each year thereafter.

Q: How can one assure that the student's first semester is in line with their 4 year plan and other high school goals? Can the 4 year plan meeting take place prior to 9th grade to make the most of the first semester?

A: Contact and meet with their school counselor either during the initial 4-year plan meeting. You are more than welcome to request to meet before.

Q: When will the High School packets go home with students, so we know when to look for them before counseling sessions in the spring.

A: Sometime in early to mid April. (See slide #7) - after the PUSD lottery choices have been made. You are always more than welcome to contact a counselor at the high school site to follow up on that inquiry.

Q: Is there a list of course offerings for each high school available?

A: <https://www.pusd.us/Page/250>

Role of Counselors / College Prep

Q: Will an A-G counselor be assigned to students or do parents have to advocate to see an A-G counselor?

A: The regular HS counselors are each assigned a caseload of students with whom they will meet and follow up with individually. The two A-G counselors are each assigned to two high schools, where they work with the regular counselors and the students to support college-going culture. They are more likely to be meeting 1:1 with students who need support to recover credit (e.g., re-taking an A-G course for which they did not earn a C or better).

Q: How much support for the college process do the school counselors have bandwidth to provide? Sounds like they have a lot on their plates already given the # of students and # of counselors.

A: It is a team effort. Counselors work with the A-G counselors and the career advisors to help students with college applications. Students will be introduced to College/Career development as early as 9th grade. By 11th, counselors will have students begin their college lists. Each school site has their own career advisor who is there daily and an A-G counselor who is at the school site 2x a week. There are also programs like [College Access Plan](#) (CAP), which is open to any PUSD student, and Upward Bound that assist with the college going process. CAP counselors are available for drop-in assistance at each of the high schools two days/week, as well as offering informational programs and workshops.

Questions about Dual & Concurrent Enrollment

Q: Are the PCC opportunities the only college opportunities available, and is that only at Muir? What about Caltech or other local collegiate offerings?

A: Dual enrollment through PCC is offered at all 4 high schools. However, the offerings available to Muir students are more extensive and are offered on campus as part of the student's regular



school-day schedule. At Blair, Marshall and PHS the dual enrollment offerings are more limited and typically are offered in the late afternoon (after the school day).

Q: Can ninth graders take courses from PCC for high school and college credit regardless of their high school?

A: No. Students from any high school can take courses for college credit through concurrent enrollment. In some cases, a student may be able to petition to have that concurrent course count towards a high school graduation requirement. However, only Dual Enrollment courses automatically count for both high school and college credit, and these offerings are more limited. What is offered in a given semester will depend on the high school.

Q: Can student begin dual enrollment in 9 th grade? Do dual enrollment grades affect a student's GPA?

A: Yes and yes!

Q: Is PCC Northwest exclusively for high school students or does general public also enroll in courses on that campus?

A: Dual enrollment courses are exclusively for high school students, whereas concurrent enrollment courses are open to anyone. The PCC Northwest courses that Muir students take during the school day are dual enrollment (exclusively for high school students). However, the courses offered at PCC Northwest after the school day are open to anyone, including students from other PUSD high schools who are doing concurrent enrollment, and the general public.

Q: Is there a maximum number of credits a HS student can take at PCC?

A: No.

Q: Is Dual Enrollment limited to a certain set of classes at PCC? What about Concurrent Enrollment?

A: Dual Enrollment is limited to a set of classes that are offered on the high school campus, either during the day (Muir) or after the school day (Blair, Marshall, PHS). Students can concurrently enroll in any class that PCC offers, provided they have taken any necessary prerequisites. Students do need to get a [Recommendation Form](#) from their HS counselor in order to concurrently enroll.

Q: What GPA or grades required to enroll in dual enrollment?

A: No minimum requirements.

Q: Can a student take PCC / college courses off campus during the normal high school daily schedule?

A: No.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR RESOURCE LINKS!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS!

Resource	Website/link
PUSD Resources	
PUSD Orientation to High School Handbook	https://www.pusd.us/cms/lib/CA01901115/Centricity/Domain/68/Orientation%20to%20HS%202022-23%20revised3.31.22.pdf
College & Career Academies	https://www.pusd.us/Domain/97
Dual & Concurrent Enrollment	https://www.penfamilies.org/news-posts/2023/1/18/options-for-earning-college-credit-as-a-pusd-high-school-student
Graduations Requirements Packet	https://www.pusd.us/cms/lib/CA01901115/Centricity/Domain/68/PUSD Graduation Requirements Packet for Parents rev 09142021.pdf
Aeries (Parent Portal)	https://pasadenausd.asp.aeries.net/student/LoginParent.aspx
Office of Family & Community Engagement	https://www.pusd.us/Page/9178 parent workshop calendar, directory of school community assistants, resources to support families...
Student Wellness & Support Services	https://www.pusd.us/Domain/57 child welfare & attendance, mental health services, families in transition, youth in foster care...
Campus Resources	<i>See school website or check with school office staff for details</i>
Counseling Office	
On-Campus Mental Health & Wellness Supports	
Community Assistant, Community Schools Senior Advocate	
Tutoring & Academic Support Programs	

Graduation – Honors and Special Recognition	
California Scholarship Fed.	https://csf-cjsf.org/
National Honor Society	https://www.nhs.us/
Golden Seal Diploma	https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/meritdiploma.asp
AP Capstone Diploma	https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-capstone
International Baccalaureate Diploma	https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme
Seal of Bi-Literacy	https://sealofbiliteracy.org/
Partner organizations supporting college access	
College Access Plan (CAP)	https://collegeaccessplan.org/
CAP High School Drop-in Prog.	https://collegeaccessplan.org/dropin/
Pasadena Library (Teen College & Financial Aid)	https://cityofpasadena.libguides.com/c.php?g=611371&p=4574263
Cal State LA Upward Bound	https://www.calstatela.edu/univ/stuaffrs/ubp
PCC Upward Bound	https://pasadena.edu/academics/support/trio-programs/upward-bound/
UCLA EAOP	https://eaop.ucla.edu/